Inclusion of ship breaking under petroleum rules

2990. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of Government to include ship breaking activity in Petroleum Rules, 2002;

(b) if so, thepresent status of the proposal;

(c) whether the Supreme Court made it mandatory to obtain Explosive certificate under explosive Rules for the ships;

(d) whether ship breaking industry is affected for non-issuance of explosive certificate; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. After obtaining, the views of Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO), Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways, Ministry of Steel and Ports & Transport Department, Government of Gujarat on proposed draft amendment of Petroleum Rules, 2002, the same is being finalizedin consultation with Ministry of Law.

(c) Supreme Court of India in a writ petition No. 657/1995 *vide* its order dated 14.10.2003 has made the issue of gas-free certificates for hot work in respect of ship breaking activity mandatory. Accordingly, PESO agreed to issue gas-free certificates pending amendment of Rule 43 of Petroleum Rules, 2002 by the Government.

(d) and (e) It is reported by PESO that ship breaking industry is not affected for non-issuance of such certificate as gas free certificates for man entry and dock entry continue to be issued by PESO under rule 43(c) and 43(e) respectively of Petroleum Rules, 2002 and hot work certificates during ship breaking by agencies recognized by Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health under Factories Act & Rules. With this, the requirements of ship breaking industry as well as public safety have been fully met.